



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Akira AHASHI et al.
Serial No : 10/571,460 (National Stage of PCT/JP2004/013113)
I.A. Filed : September 9, 2004
For : FILLER FOR LADLE TAP HOLE VALVE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby direct the Examiner's attention to the following documents cited in the International Search Report for International Application PCT/JP2004/0013113 of which the above-referenced application is a national phase:

- (1) JP 11-277220 A, October 12, 1999, accompanied by an English language abstract thereof (provided by Patent Abstracts of Japan);
 - (2) JP 7-251261 A, October 3, 1995, accompanied by an English language abstract thereof (provided by Patent Abstracts of Japan);
 - (3) JP 2000-317625 A, November 21, 2000, accompanied by an English language abstract thereof (provided by Patent Abstracts of Japan);
- Applicants note that this document is also cited and discussed at page 9, line 27 of the present application;

- (4) JP 11-300468 A, November 2, 1999, accompanied by an English language abstract thereof (provided by Patent Abstracts of Japan);
- (5) JP 8-90214 A, April 09, 1996, accompanied by an English language abstract thereof (provided by Patent Abstracts of Japan);

Applicants further direct the Examiner's attention to the following documents cited and discussed in the present application:

- (6) JP 62-244570 A, October 24, 1987, accompanied by an English language abstract thereof (provided by Patent Abstracts of Japan); Applicants note that this document is cited and discussed at page 2, lines 8 and 12 of the present application;
- (7) JP 1-180776 A, July 18, 1989, accompanied by an English language abstract thereof (provided by Patent Abstracts of Japan); Applicants note that this document is cited and discussed at page 2, lines 9 and 20 of the present application;
- (8) JP 3056260 B2, June 6, 2000, accompanied by an English language abstract thereof (provided by esp@cenet); Applicants note that this document is cited and discussed at page 2, lines 10 and 25 of the present application;
- (9) JP 6-71424, March 15, 1994, accompanied by an English language abstract thereof (provided by Patent Abstracts of Japan); Applicants note that this document is cited and discussed at page 9, line 20 of the present application;

- (10) JP 10-58126, March 3, 1998, accompanied by an English language abstract thereof (provided by esp@cenet); Applicants note that this document is cited and discussed at page 9, line 22 of the present application.

Applicants further direct the Examiner's attention to the following documents:

- (11) JP 59-5388 B2, February 4, 1984;
(12) JP 60-57942 B2, December 17, 1985;
(13) U.S. Patent No. 4,928,931 (DISLICH et al.), May 29, 1990;
(14) U.S. Patent No. 5,124,285 (DISLICH), June 23, 1992;
(15) U.S. Patent No. 5,374,593 (HUARD et al.), December 20, 1994;
(16) Pan, H.C., Ko, Y.C. "Microstructural and morphological changes of silica and chromite packing sands for sliding gate system for steel ladles after heating at temperature", Ironmaking and Steelmaking, 1992, vol. 19, no. 5, pp. 390-393.

Copies of the above-listed documents (with the exception of U.S. patents) and the International Search Report (in English) for International Application PCT/JP2004/0013113 are enclosed together with a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the next official communication.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to partially waive the requirements under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)(2)(i) and (iii), copies of the U.S. patents cited above are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant notes that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Akira OHASHI et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Stephen M. Roylance
Reg. No. 31,296

June 13, 2006
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

FORM PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. P29496		Application No. 10/571,460	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				Applicant Akira AHASHI et al.			
				Filing Date I.A. Filed September 9, 2004		Group Not Yet Assigned	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	4 9 2 8 9 3 1	05/29/90	DISLICH et al.				
	5 1 2 4 2 8 5	06/23/92	DISLICH				
	5 3 7 4 5 9 3	12/20/94	HUARD et al.				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO		
1 1 - 2 7 7 2 2 0	10/12/99	JAPAN					
7 - 2 5 1 2 6 1	10/03/95	JAPAN					
2 0 0 0 - 3 1 7 6 2 5	11/21/00	JAPAN					
1 1 - 3 0 0 4 6 8	11/02/99	JAPAN					
8 - 0 9 0 2 1 4	04/09/96	JAPAN					
6 5 - 2 4 4 5 7 0	10/24/87	JAPAN					
1 - 1 8 0 7 7 6	07/18/89	JAPAN					
3 0 5 6 2 6 0	06/06/00	JAPAN					
6 - 0 7 1 4 2 4	03/15/94	JAPAN					
1 0 - 0 5 8 1 2 6	03/03/98	JAPAN					
5 9 - 0 0 5 3 8 8	02/04/84	JAPAN					
6 0 - 0 5 7 9 4 2	12/17/85	JAPAN					

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
1	English Language Abstract of JP 11-277220.
2	English Language Abstract of JP 7-251261.
3	English Language Abstract of JP 2000-317625.
4	English Language Abstract of JP 11-300468.
5	English Language Abstract of JP 8-090214.
6	English Language Abstract of JP 62-244570.
7	English Language Abstract of JP 1-180776.
8	English Language Abstract of JP 3056260.
9	English Language Abstract of JP 6-071424.
10	English Language Abstract of JP 10-058126.
11	Pan, H.C., Ko, Y.C. "Microstructural and morphological changes of silica and chromite packing sands for sliding gate system for steel ladles after heating at temperature", Ironmaking and Steelmaking, 1992, vol. 19, no. 5, pp. 390-393.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.